



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 31, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Scattered showers this week brought moisture to some areas of the state, while leaving others with no relief. With the continued warm weather, producers are hoping for a soaking rain to raise soil moisture levels. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included spreading manure, making hay, harvesting apples, peaches, and small grains, baling straw, and making machinery repairs.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 31, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
15	31	54	0

**Crops:** Ninety percent of soybeans have bloomed, well ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty percent of the crop is now setting pods, also well ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean condition continues to look good as 67 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Corn height is now at 80 inches, on pace with last year's average. Corn is 78 percent silked, twelve percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Eighteen percent of the corn crop is now in the dough stage, slightly behind both last year's average as well as the 5-year average. Corn crop conditions remain steady from last week as 71 percent is rated as either good or excellent. The wheat harvest is now 92 percent complete, on pace with the 5-year average. Eighty-seven percent of oats are yellow, ahead of the historic average. Sixty-three percent of the crop is ripe, also ahead of the historic average. The oat harvest is now 35 percent complete, 18 percentage points ahead of last year's average. Oat conditions declined slightly from last week as 54 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Five percent of potatoes are now harvested slightly behind last year's average. Ninety-seven percent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting of alfalfa is now complete, as well as 48 percent of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting. Sixty-eight percent of the alfalfa stand is rated as either good or excellent. Forty-seven percent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting of timothy is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. This is an improvement in quality from last week.

The peach and apple crops continue to look excellent. Seventy-one percent of peaches and 86 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Thirty-four percent of the peach crop has now been harvested as well as 18 percent of the apple crop.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions were rated with the following: 24 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Pasture conditions continue to decline.

**U.S. As of July 24, 2005:** Highlights: Temperatures were above normal across the Nation, with only parts of Texas and the extreme northern Great Plains averaging near normal. Temperatures exceeded 100 degrees Fahrenheit across much of the Southwest, Great Plains, and extreme western Corn Belt. In the central Corn Belt, hot weather also prevailed, with high temperatures in the middle 90's Fahrenheit. Conditions were mostly dry across the western half of the Nation, except in the Southwest, where light to moderate rain associated with Hurricane Emily fell. Precipitation was moderate across the Corn Belt, but showers mostly missed the driest areas of Illinois and Missouri, where soil moisture levels continued to decline. Light to moderate rain in the Mississippi Delta improved rice and cotton crop conditions. Corn: Silking advanced to 79 percent complete, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of normal. Fourteen percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, compared with 17 percent last year and 13 percent for the 5-year average. Silking advanced rapidly under warm conditions across the Nation, advancing 30 points from the previous week. Meanwhile, doughing progressed much less rapidly, advancing only 8 points nationwide. Soybeans: Blooming, at 81 percent complete, was 10 points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the average. Pods were set on 36 percent of the acreage, 6 points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Eighty-five percent of the acreage had been harvested, compared with 82 percent last year and 83 percent for the 5-year average. Small Grains: Ninety-six percent of the barley crop was headed, the same as last year and the 5-year average. Oat growers had harvested 34 percent of their acreage, 10 points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal.

# Weather Data For Week Ending July 31, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 31, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	93	57	72	1	2.39	3	11.19	-3.01	44	1,662	238	2,696
Franklin	90	55	71	2	1.35	4	14.22	-2.59	69	1,501	144	2,583
Meadville	89	55	70	2	2.59	3	14.01	-2.08	50	1,576	338	2,654
Mercer	91	56	72	3	1.42	4	15.28	-0.66	66	1,539	194	2,599
Springboro	90	52	70	-2	3.36	4	14.95	0.71	54	1,442	13	2,460
Warren	90	53	70	1	0.97	3	11.46	-5.07	51	1,467	148	2,529
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	86	46	67	2	1.68	3	15.72	-1.06	56	1,144	184	2,133
Emporium	92	54	71	5	0.65	3	10.30	-6.81	54	1,459	385	2,522
Kane	88	49	66	1	1.05	3	12.21	-4.63	50	1,094	147	2,074
Laporte	87	55	70	0	0.79	4	15.24	-0.48	57	1,326	-33	2,345
Lock Haven	94	57	74	3	0.80	2	8.76	-6.58	44	1,677	236	2,790
Port Allegany	90	54	68	3	0.48	3	10.69	-5.38	46	1,263	193	2,256
Renovo	95	55	73	3	0.34	2	6.49	-8.85	42	1,657	216	2,769
Ridgway	87	51	68	2	1.64	3	13.08	-4.03	52	1,273	199	2,310
Stevenson Dam	93	56	72	6	0.76	3	10.05	-7.06	53	1,545	471	2,639
Towanda	94	54	72	2	0.43	3	10.30	-2.73	44	1,541	171	2,617
Wellsboro	87	53	69	3	0.39	2	15.38	2.21	45	1,232	218	2,224
Williamsport	93	59	75	3	0.63	2	14.41	-0.98	37	1,821	221	2,945
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	92	50	70	3	0.20	2	12.85	-1.77	46	1,373	217	2,413
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	94	57	76	5	0.43	4	9.57	-4.82	45	1,821	301	2,945
Susquehanna	91	54	71	4	0.05	1	11.56	-4.10	51	1,468	357	2,525
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	94	56	72	2	0.74	3	13.75	-2.01	50	1,588	178	2,712
New Castle	96	57	74	5	1.12	3	15.24	0.67	49	1,718	299	2,838
Slippery Rock	93	56	73	4	0.67	4	15.47	0.05	50	1,589	312	2,723
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	88	55	72	1	0.47	1	8.41	-5.91	30	1,549	25	2,652
DuBois	87	54	70	2	0.95	3	11.93	-3.92	62	1,440	124	2,525
Lewistown	94	60	75	3	0.72	2	12.42	-3.02	43	1,796	125	2,941
Middletown	93	63	78	3	0.75	2	13.60	-1.34	37	2,112	224	3,297
Prince Gallitzi	90	51	70	3	0.94	3	11.55	-6.71	52	1,364	159	2,420
Selinsgrove	93	56	75	3	0.43	3	13.47	-1.91	41	1,718	157	2,843
State College	90	61	74	3	0.90	2	8.40	-5.80	45	1,712	206	2,846
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	94	60	77	3	0.87	4	16.29	0.68	45	1,859	131	3,018
Lehighnton	90	58	74	0	0.83	4	16.04	0.38	46	1,681	20	2,819
Matamoras	91	55	72	-1	0.06	2	13.49	-2.88	50	1,464	-38	2,543
Tobyhanna	92	57	74	8	0.65	4	16.90	-0.17	64	1,640	630	2,766
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	93	61	76	5	0.66	2	9.69	-5.46	51	1,943	412	3,112
Derry	92	58	72	2	0.57	4	14.49	-1.08	48	1,611	182	2,737
Myersdale	87	51	70	-2	0.19	2	13.07	-4.18	44	1,220	-171	2,253
Mount Pleasant	90	55	71	3	0.47	2	16.13	-1.26	56	1,573	309	2,702
Pittsburgh Intl	93	61	75	4	0.67	2	15.02	0.82	51	1,828	224	2,980
Rector	90	59	72	4	0.70	4	14.46	-2.93	66	1,563	299	2,689
Waynesburg	91	56	73	3	0.40	2	12.56	-2.91	44	1,626	148	2,764
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	94	61	76	2	0.67	3	15.49	1.78	45	1,844	-10	3,007
Everett	87	53	69	-4	0.40	2	8.08	-5.76	43	1,241	-254	2,300
Hanover	94	61	77	2	1.33	1	17.73	4.02	40	1,828	-26	2,982
Shippensburg	95	60	77	2	0.61	3	16.84	2.93	47	1,882	40	3,033
South Mountain	89	56	73	1	0.46	2	13.84	-0.48	40	1,614	97	2,777
York	93	59	77	3	0.32	1	10.68	-4.53	31	1,858	11	3,011
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	95	62	77	4	0.52	3	14.15	-1.15	40	1,839	194	3,005
Hamburg	93	60	76	5	0.71	3	14.77	-3.44	39	1,875	381	3,035
Hopewell	95	62	77	1	0.76	4	17.22	1.24	56	1,851	-92	3,019
Lancaster	93	61	77	3	0.42	2	17.92	2.04	39	1,901	169	3,065
Neshaminy Falls	95	58	76	2	0.51	3	18.22	0.36	35	1,723	3	2,864
New Holland	96	61	77	3	0.85	2	14.16	-1.72	39	1,942	210	3,110
Philadelphia	98	67	81	4	0.34	3	14.30	-1.09	38	2,164	174	3,371
Philadelphia NE	98	67	80	4	0.53	4	18.23	2.84	38	2,111	121	3,307
Reading	95	62	78	4	0.52	3	14.62	-2.19	40	2,009	312	3,179
Valley Forge Na	94	56	75	-3	0.39	3	15.88	-0.10	28	1,728	-215	2,864
Willow Grove	95	64	78	5	0.07	1	16.34	-1.52	33	1,952	232	3,134

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Sharon Weigle (FSA)** - Early peach harvest continues with size and quality good to excellent. Thundershowers came through the county and left varying amounts of rain but more importantly, brought cooler temperatures that were welcomed by crops and critters alike!

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - It is still very dry in the county.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Another dry week! Crops are under considerable stress. We just had a shower that put a half of an inch of rain in my gage. Some corn will not produce grain the way it looks to me. Some showers are needed soon to produce any significant 3rd cutting hay and to help pastures.

**CENTRE COUNTY, John A Wataha** - Much needed rain arrived Sunday evening.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Crops look very good in our area since the rains. Pastures are still short, but farmers are supplementing with hay. The main problem of water shortage has had some relief since last week's rains.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Jim Collom** - Corn is looking pretty good with the rain and ample heat units we've had lately.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The rain came fast on Wednesday and it rain often throughout the day. The storm really put life back into the crops! Wheat is being harvested and there are reports of 70 to 85 bushels per acre. The oat crop isn't doing as well. The oat stands look great but did not stool out. There are reports of 30 to 45 bushels per acre. Corn throughout the counties is tasseling. Many acres of second and third crop hay were harvested. Potatoes are being picked and there are reported yields above normal.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - Another good week for corn and hay. Need some additional rain to continue the filling out of the ears. Peach harvest is now in full swing and the quality is very good in most peach orchards, however there were several that were hit by hail and thus reducing the quality.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr** - Crops are doing well in this hot humid weather. Pastures are looking good for this time of year. Moisture was a little short for some of the double cropped fields, but they are looking good considering.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Cool front Wednesday brought nearly an inch of rain to us, but some only got a few tenths. More rain would be welcomed, but crops are looking good. Most of the corn is silking, early corn is in the milk stage. Beans are setting pods and looking great. Brown spot, bacterial blight, and downy mildew are present in soybean fields. Sweet corn and tomatoes are now very plentiful in the area after a slow start.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - The recent showers along with warm temperatures and high humidity, has allowed the corn, soybeans, and alfalfa to make significant growth. However, there are signs of leaf disease on the lower leaves of the soybeans. The potato leafhopper has become a problem and some fields have been sprayed. The end of the week was excellent for the making of quality hay. The main activities were making hay, spreading manure, and making equipment repairs.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - There were a lot of chances for rain last week and we only got about a tenth of an inch. We did get a good shower Sunday afternoon which brought right around 2 tenths of an inch. It sounds as if the center of the county had a lot more. Corn is showing a lot of stress and losing yield. There will be no third cutting of hay if we don't get showers soon. There are reports of harvesting small grains.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Dry and hot conditions are beginning to cause yield reductions in some of the areas that have been missing the scattered thunderstorms. Other parts of the county have crops that are still doing well. Route 30 divides the county almost in half from east to west with adequate moisture to the south and dry conditions to the north.

### PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 31, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	8	0	8
Corn, silk	78	78	64
Corn, dough	18	24	20
Corn average height, inches	80	79	69
Wheat, harvested	92	87	92
Oats, turning yellow	87	85	83
Oats, ripe	63	48	56
Oats, harvested	35	17	29
Potatoes, harvested	5	7	6
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	97	71	77
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	48	21	28
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	47	23	28
Peaches, harvested	34	51	37
Apples, harvested	18	10	10

### PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 31, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	6	22	46	25
Oats	5	12	29	38	16
Soybeans	1	6	26	47	20
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	10	21	52	16
Quality of hay made	1	2	15	60	22
Pasture	24	20	23	29	4
Peaches	2	5	22	48	23
Apples	2	3	9	55	31

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